

RETURN

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TO AN ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated the 7th December 1910, calling for all correspondence between the Government of Canada or the Right Honourable, the First Minister, and the Government of Manitoba or the Premier of Manitoba, referring to the demand of Manitoba for an extension of boundaries and an increase in subsidy.

CHAS. MURPHY,

Secretary of State.

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

Premier's Office, Winnipeg, Manitoba,
17th October, 1910.

My Dear Sir Wilfrid,—

Re Terms of Extension of Manitoba Boundaries.

Although I have as yet received no reply to my letter of January 8, 1910, I feel the matter of the future development and prosperity of this province demands that I should again urge and request you to give us an answer to our proposals as to the terms upon which the territory already agreed upon should be transferred to Manitoba.

I have read carefully all your published statements on the question while you were in the west. I noted your public suggestion that I should go to Ottawa and enter into conference. As to this I am willing to-day, to-morrow or any day you name to visit Ottawa.

My sense of what is right and just for the welfare of the province will compel me to simply repeat and ask, as our delegates, Messrs. Rogers and Campbell, asked, for the same equality of treatment as is enjoyed by our sister provinces. From some of your published statements you are reported as having

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said that you never made any offer at all, and that Messrs. Rogers and Campbell were mistaken. However, be this as it may, surely the time has now arrived when you should be in a position to state what terms you are prepared to recommend to your Parliament for acceptance.

You have in your possession our proposal which we regard as fair and just. If you are not prepared to accept them, and will undertake to make an alternative proposition, I will undertake and endeavor to meet you in every possible way so long as your proposition will have for its basis equality of treatment. Anything short of equality will mean the placing of Manitoba in a subordinate position towards her sister provinces in Confederation. Possibly you can think I do not represent public opinion in this province in asking for this equality of treatment.

Let me go a step further and say that if you will make your proposition and it turns out to be such as I cannot accept, I will with your approval undertake to submit the two propositions direct to the people of this province for their consideration and decision on the principle of the initiative and referendum.

If, however, you are prepared to offer us terms of equality of treatment with the other provinces, which we have so repeatedly urged, I will at once accept, and at the approaching sessions of both parliaments all these matters might be agreed to and confirmed by legislation.

An early reply will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) R. P. ROBLIN.

To the Right Honourable,

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G. C. M. G.,
Prime Minister,

Ottawa, Ontario.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE,
CANADA.

OTTAWA, 22nd October, 1910

My dear Mr. Roblin,—

In answer to yours of the 17th instant, I beg to say that I will be very happy to meet you and to resume negotiations on the question of the extension of the Manitoba boundaries, at any time that may be convenient to you.

With reference to your letter of the 8th of January last, which you say remained unanswered by me, I have to tell you frankly that in my opinion my part of the correspondence was ended, as your letter was simply a repetition of

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a suggestion which had been made by you in two previous communications, and which I had felt compelled to decline. I noticed that in some of your public utterances, you construed my not continuing the correspondence as acts of discourtesy. This is an opinion which I cannot entertain. At all events, I respectfully disclaim any such intention.

Believe me, dear Mr. Roblin,

Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd.) WILFRID LAURIER.

The Honourable R. P. Roblin,

Premier's Office,

Winnipeg, Man.

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

PREMIER'S OFFICE,

October 27, 1910.

My dear Sir Wilfrid,—

As requested by you in yours of October 22, I will visit Ottawa in the near future to discuss with you the terms upon which the boundaries of Manitoba may be extended.

With assurances of my personal regards,

Yours very respectfully,

(Sgd.) R. P. ROBLIN.

Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G. C. M. G.,

Ottawa, Ontario.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY'S TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Nov. 24, 1910.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier,—

Ottawa.

Will be in Ottawa to-morrow to resume discussion boundary matter 11.35 a.m.

(Sgd.) R. P. ROBLIN.

